

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2799

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TAGS: ECRP, EAID, SOCI, SREF, UNDP, SO

SUBJECT: CERP 008 - EVALUATION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 064907

EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS KEYED TO PARA FIVE, REFTEL:

1. GEORGI OZEROV, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WHO ARRIVED DECEMBER 1974 HAS, DURING BRIEF TENURE, DONE A CREDITABLE JOB. RES REP SLOT HAD BEEN VACANT FOR OVER A YEAR BEFORE OZEROV'S ARRIVAL AND U.N. PROGRAMS HAD, TO LARGE DEGREE, LACKED DIRECTION AND COORDINATION. ONE OF RES REP'S FIRST STEPS WAS TO HOLD DAILY MEETINGS WITH HIS OWN STAFF AND PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS OF OTHER U.N. AGENCIES REPRESENTED IN MOG. THESE MEETINGS, IN ADDITION TO ALLOWING VARIOUS AGENCIES TO IRON OUT PROBLEMS AMONG THEM, REPORTEDLY DEMONSTRATED TO U.N. STAFFERS THAT SOMEONE (OZEROV) WAS AT LAST ATTEMPTING TO OVERSEE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. MEETINGS ALSO SERVED TO MAKE MINOR AGENCIES FEEL PART OF "TEAM". IN THIS REGARD, OZEROV'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF MINOR AGENCIES DESERVES HIGH MARKS. HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GSDR IS EXCELLENT; NOT SURPRISINGLY SO GIVEN CLOSE BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN THEBSDR AND MOSCOW. OZEROV HAS ALSO SOUGHT TO COORDINATE DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM VARIOUS BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL DONORS AND, TO THIS END, HAS CONDUCTED BRIEFINGS

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FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. CORDINATION BETWEEN UNDP AND IBRD, WHILE NOT PERFECT, IS IMPROVING. UNDP SOURCE STATED THAT THE TWO AGENCIES RARELY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER IN YEARS PAST BUT THAT RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING CONTACT AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. UNDP GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH IBRD EXECUTION OF UNDP-FUNDED PROJECTS. UNICEF ACTIVITIES ARE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

2. THERE IS NO FORMAL MECHANISM TO COORDINATE ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO SDR AND, GIVEN PENCHANT FOR SECRECY OF GSDR AND SEVERAL COMMUNIST BLOC DONORS, LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A MECHANISM COMING INTO BEING IS SMALL. AN EXCEPTION TO THE ABOVE IS DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OVER WHICH UNDP HAS PROVIDED CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION. ON THE DEVELOPMENT SIDE, THE MOST UNDP HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO IS TO PERSUADE VARIOUS BILATERAL DONORS TO PROVIDE LISTING OF PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY INVOLVED. ONLY CUBA AND NORTH KOREA REFUSED, THOUGH THE SOVIET UNION AND SEVERAL OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND CHINA DECLINED TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION. OVERALL, UNDP IS PROBABLY DOING BEST IT CAN IN THIS REGARD AND, WITH SOVIET CITIZEN AS RES REP, CAN PROBABLY EXTRACT MORE INFORMATION FROM MORE BILATERAL DONORS THAN BEFORE AND, HOPEFULLY, AVOID SERIOUS DUPLICATIONS/CONTRADICTIONS AMONG VARIOUS PROGRAMS. OFFICE OF PLANNING IN PRESIDENCY, WHICH THEORETICALLY COORDINATES ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, IS SIMPLY NOT EQUIPPED TO DO THE JOB.

3. FROM ALL WE HAVE HEARD AND SEEN, UNDP AND RES REP HAVE DONE EXCELLENT JOB IN COORDINATING ONGOING DROUGHT EMERGENCY PROGRAM. RES REP HAS REPORTEDLY LOBBIED LONG AND HARD WITH PRINCIPALS IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA FOR SUPPLEMENTS TO UNDP AND OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS TO COPE WITH EMERGENCY. RELATIONS AMONG U.N. AGENCIES AND SOMALI DROUGHT RELIEF COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. AS NOTED ABOVE RES REP'S EFFORTS EXTEND ALSO TO COORDINATION OF BILATERAL RELIEF PROGRAMS. BECAUSE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT LIKELY TO BE FELT FOR SOME TIME, UNDP IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF ADDING A RELIEF AND REHABILITATION EXPERT TO RES REP'S STAFF.

4. IN JANUARY 1974 A COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR SOMALIA FOR PERIOD 1973-77 WAS APPROVED. UNDP HAD HOPED TO CONDUCT A PROGRAM REVIEW IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR BUT DROUGHT EMERGENCY FORCED POSTPONEMENT, PROBABLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. UNDP ENVISIONS PARTICIPATION BY SOMALI

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OFFICIALS AND EXECUTING AGENCY PERSONNEL IN ADDITION TO RES REP. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT GSDR WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MULTI-LATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS. UNDP NOT CERTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT ORIGINAL COUNTRY PROGRAM WILL BE AMENDED. GSDR HAS HINTED THAT IT WANTS TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF NOMADS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THIS, ACCORDING TO UNDP SOURCE, WOULD REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN COUNTRY PROGRAM AND WOULD INVOLVE PARTICIPATION OF UNDP HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL IN PROGRAM

REVIEW.

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5. EMBASSY MAINTAINS LIAISON WITH RES REP AND HIS STAFF AS WELL AS WITH SEVERAL EXPERTS WORKING ON UNDP-FUNDED PROJECTS. THROUGH THESE RELATIONSHIPS WE ARE ABLE TO LEARN OF NEW PROJECTS. HOWEVER, CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMBASSY AND UNDP ENVISIONED IN DEPARTMENT AND USAID CIRCULARS DOES NOT EXIST HERE.

6. DROUGHT EMERGENCY HAS FORCED DRASIC CHANGE IN FOCUS OF UNDP PROGRAMS. IN THE NORTH, LIVESTOCK AND RANGE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS HAVE, IN EFFECT, BECOME RELIEF EFFORTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE PLACE TO LIVE AND MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD FOR DROUGHT VICTIMS. AS NOTED EARLIER, UNDP IS COORDINATING DELIVERY OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO STRICKEN AREAS AND, WHILE WE CANNOT DOCUMENT SPECIFIC INSTANCES, IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THIS OVERRIDING CONCERN WITH DROUGHT RELIEF HAS DRAINED HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES FROM MANY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. EVEN SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED AS SOMALI COUNTERPARTS ARE SECONDED TO RELIEF-RELATED AGENCIES. UNDP SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT, AT LEAST UNTIL THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY ENDS, SOMALIA SIMPLY CANNOT PROFIT FROM MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BECAUSE IT LACKS PERSONNEL TO MAKE THEM SELF-SUSTAINING, AND, THE IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR, SOME PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY ARE OF DUBIOUS VALUE FOR THE SAME REASON. NONETHELESS WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT BASIC ORIENTATION OF UNDP PROGRAMMING AND GSDR PLANNING IS SOUND. OVER 50 PERCENT OF UNDP-FUNDED PROJECTS ARE IN PRIMARY PRODUCTS SECTOR (AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES

AND FORESTRY). AS NONE OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR
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COMPLETION BEFORE 1976, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE THEIR
EFFECTIVENESS AT THIS TIME. UNDP TELLS US THAT SOMALI CONTRIBUTIONS
OF COUNTERPART FUNDS ARE CONSISTENTLY AS AGREED AND ON TIME. WHILE
IT OFTEN TAKES LENGTHY AND HARD BARGAINING TO REACH UNDERSTANDING,
ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THE GSDR HONORS ITS COMMITMENTS. BECAUSE
WE ARE ALLOWED LITTLE AND INFREQUENT ACCESS TO VARIOUS PROJECTS,
WE CANNOT ASSESS INFLUENCE OF FACTORS SUCH AS HOUSING AND ALLOWANCES
ON RATE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

7. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH TRI-PARTITE REVIEW
PROCESS, BUT WE ARE TOLD BY UNDP THAT PROCEDURE HAS BEEN WORKING
WELL. ON THE GSDR SIDE, REPRESENTATIVE OF OFFICE OF PLANNING IN
PRESIDENCY AND MINISTRY INVOLVED IN GIVEN PROJECT PARTICIPATE FULLY
IN REVIEW PROCESS. GSDR IS REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH THE TRI-PARTITE
REVIEW SYSTEM. AS REGARDS A RES REP'S REPORT, THE ONLY ANNUAL
PUBLICATION THAT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTVW IS SIMPLE COMPENDIUM OF
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WHICH INCLUDES BRIER DESCRIPTION OF
EACH PROJECT, TS OVERALL COST AND AMOUNT DISBURSED DURING YEAR
UNDER REVIEW. IT IS IN NO SENSE A POLICY REVIEW KWR EVALUATION.
OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT RES REP REPORTS DRIECTLY
TO PRINCIPALS IN MOSCOW AND NEW YORK.

8. GIVEN SOMALIA'S VERY BASIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, THERE HAS BEEN
LITTLE, IF ANY, SYSTEMATIC ATTENTION GIVEN TO INTEGRATION OF WOMEN
IN TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
SOMALI GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. AS LONG
AS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, OR ONE LIKE IT, REMAINS IN POWER AND
AS EDUCATIONAL LEVELS AMONG FEMALES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, IT IS
LIKELY THAT WOMEN WILL OCCUPY
AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PLACE IN
THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

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HMRICK

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